

Task Force on Pesticide Ordinance Public Education (POPE)
Meeting Minutes *Draft*: August 19, 2009

Participants:

Present: Jay Vos, Fern Crete, Jean Markey Duncan, Mary Ellen Manock, Bethany Hanna, and Amanda Holland

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Jay Vos
Mary Ellen Manock, scribe

Meeting Guidelines:

Meeting guidelines were reviewed for the new attendants.
Keeping meetings to time parameters
Stick to the agenda
Keep objectives clearly displayed
Don't argue
Don't interrupt
One person has the floor at a time
Maintain an air of respect amongst participants
Time should be kept at the beginning of each meeting to allow for public comment

Objectives:

The objectives of the Task Force were read aloud and we proceeded with each objective making comments. This was in essence another brainstorming session but with new people and their input.
We continued to develop objectives in the effort to have a game plan by March 1, 2010 which will be presented to the Board of Health.
We referred to the revised pesticide ordinance, discussed the buffer zone and Jean presented a list of those streets and addresses of people who live in the Buffer Zone. Jay mentioned that in the new ordinance it states that companies such as "Chem Lawn" or "True Green" must apply to the BOH for the approved application of chemicals in the Buffer Zone. Private residents are required to apply as well.
Amanda cited a family who did not know that they live in the buffer zone.
Jay mentioned that Phosphorus is not mentioned in the Ordinance.
Bethany suggested we talk (take survey) to residents in the Buffer Zone; what do they know, what do they do to their lawns, where are the gaps?
Brainstorming began objective by objective building on what we talked about last month.
- last meeting's evaluation
x this meeting's evaluation

To evaluate the existing methods for public education about the pesticide ordinance.

-The North Avenue News- need map and ordinance
x the map is inadequate, the lines drawn are vague. The list presented covers what address is in the Zone.

- Channel 17- Happy Gardening Show (2007)
- x Use the TV more, expand program, learn viewer-ship, feedback
- x Add Across the Fence, Channel 3

- Leafletting
- x Put info in the Water Bill and Electric Bill

- NPAs
- x Up date; go regularly to keep a presence. Need people power and package to be consistent in what info we send out.
- x Front Porch Forum, another venue, invite public to attend our meetings.
- x PTOs in Burlington, presentations

To decrease the routine use of lawn care chemicals.

- x Develop a commercial; find a comedian
- x Evaluate current use of chemicals, attitudes regarding lawn care (Amanda!s survey idea? Data? Engage student through Sid Bosworth)
- x Master Gardener Program could be a source of volunteers as it is built into their program
- x It was suggested we educate people about the watershed connection; includes: run off, tributaries, understand why? Define the BZ role.
- x Code Enforcement Agency educate about the health risks. Chemical lawn treatments are or contain carcinogens, neurotoxins, and endocrin disruptives.
- x Study done which found organo-phosphates in the lake and that it takes 10 years to get it out.
- x Find out who uses commercial lawn care VS Self treating i.e., Scotts 4 step.
- x Small commercial applicators need info about pesticide ordinance.
- x Offer Options !

To increase informed and watchful citizens who will help with the enforcement and compliance of the ordinance.

- x Health risks
- x Programs in schools
- x Master Gardeners
- x Booth @ Spring Flower Show
- x Booth@ Winter Farmer!s Market

To encourage a new attitude about the “Perfect Lawn”

- x Create a creative and appealing message
- x Living Lab (no harsh chemicals)
- x Hold a contest with prizes for the best solution for green lawns (how ironic) Contact Emma (rain garden guru)
- x Involve SEVEN DAYS i.e., could do something similar to Restaurant Daisy campaign

To educate the public about the environmental and health risks associated with lawn care chemicals.

- x children and neurotoxins Jean read, (source?) “Small doses over long periods at certain developmental stages and in combination with other chemicals, do matter.” Autism
- x Google Michael Hansen PhD.
- x Smart Waterways Group

Educate the public about alternatives to lawn care chemicals.

- x Editors of Consumer Reports Books
- x A message from the concerned citizens of the South Burlington Natural Resources Committee 846-4106.
- x Lawn/Garden care the Natural Way; non-toxic alternatives to pesticides 872-8111.

Educate the public about the existing ordinance.

- Merchants and staff
- Post Buffer Zone streets (stores where chemicals are sold, on-line, at City Hall, etc.
- Front Porch Forum
- Clever slogans like: “Don’t P on you lawn” OR “Are you P-ing on your lawn?”
- Mass mailings
- x What is a pesticide/herbicide
- x Examples: SHOW ME!

Think of a catchy phrase (or more) for comic commercial use!

The next meeting will probably be held in a building across from the McNeil Plant, Wednesday September 23, 6-8 PM Jay will email to confirm.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 P.M.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Manock